

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~VACCINE COMPOSITION, METHOD OF PREPARING THE SAME, AND METHOD OF~~  
VACCINATING VERTEBRATES

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

~~This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from United States provisional patent application Serial No. 60/203,864 filed May 12, 2000. This is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 09/853,919, filed May 11, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. \_\_\_\_.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Generally, the cations may be provided by any source which does not otherwise interfere with the formation of alginate microparticles. Suitable sources of cations include non-toxic, water-soluble salts with divalent and/or trivalent cations, and other salts such as sulfates lactates, citrates, tartrates, and acetates. Examples include  $AlSO_4$ ,  $BaCl_2$ ,  $CaCl_2$ ,  $MnCl_2$ ,  $ZnCl_2$ , calcium acetate, zinc acetate, strontium nitrate, and mixtures thereof.